CLAIMS

1. An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor;

a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory stores non-object oriented data; and

a mapping software residing in memory, wherein the processor executes the mapping software to map an object onto the non-objected oriented data located in the memory without requiring any substantial memory in addition to a portion of the memory storing the non-object oriented data.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data is mapped with zero size memory.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the non-object oriented data is stored within a legacy data structure.

4. A method for retrieving non-object oriented data from within an object oriented model, the method comprising the steps of:

loading memory with non-object oriented data;

mapping an object oriented model onto a memory space occupied by the non-object oriented data without requiring substantial additional memory space; and

retrieving a non-object oriented data element from the memory in the object oriented model.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of mapping further comprising:

inheriting the non-object oriented data from memory.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of mapping further comprising:

creating a class from the non-object oriented data.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the step of mapping further comprising:

instantiating an instance of the class.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of instantiating occurs through static casting.

9. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of mapping further comprising:

accessing the non-object oriented data using a object oriented model.

10. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of retrieving occurs with zero size memory.

11. The method of claim 4 wherein the non-object oriented data are stored within a legacy data structure.

12. A method for retrieving non-object oriented data from within an object oriented model, the method comprising the steps of:

loading memory with non-object oriented data;

mapping an object oriented model onto a memory space occupied by the non-object oriented data located in the memory without requiring any substantial memory in addition to a portion of the memory storing the non-object oriented data;

retrieving a non-object oriented data element from the memory in the object oriented model.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of mapping further comprising:

inheriting the non-object oriented data from memory.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of mapping further comprising: creating a class from the non-object oriented data.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of mapping further comprising: instantiating an instance of the class.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of instantiating occurs through static casting.

17. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of mapping further comprising: accessing the non-object oriented data using a object oriented model.

18. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of retrieving occurs with zero size memory.

19. The method of claim 12 wherein the non-object oriented data are stored within a legacy data structure.